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## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, July 1, 2008

### **4 sentenced for attempted armored car robbery**

The last of four defendants connected to the attempted robbery of an armored car in May 2007 was sentenced last week in federal court to 45 months in prison for his role in the crime.

United States District Court Judge Ann Montgomery also sentenced Kyle Wesley Singleton, 20, North Branch, to three years of supervised release June 27 in Minneapolis on one count of conspiracy to commit robbery and one count of aiding and abetting robbery affecting interstate commerce. Singleton and the other three defendants were indicted on June 19, 2007, and a jury found Singleton guilty of both counts on April 4. The other three defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges.

Nichole Yvonne Nelson, 34, Hopkins, was sentenced May 15 to 20 months in prison and three years of supervised release on one count of aiding and abetting robbery affecting interstate commerce. Orlando Aaron Allen, 20, Eagan, was sentenced to 28 months in prison and three years of supervised release May 15 on one count of aiding and abetting robbery affecting interstate commerce. Thomas William Eiden, 20, Rosemount, was sentenced June 4 to five years of probation on one count of aiding and abetting robbery affecting interstate commerce.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, on May 29, 2007, Allen, Singleton and Eiden were arrested near TCF National Bank in Robbinsdale after they were observed covering the front and rear license plates of their vehicle with duct tape. The men were also observed wearing masks or face paint, and running around in a suspicious manner near the bank parking lot.

According to the affidavit, Eiden stated that he, Allen, Singleton and Nelson had been plotting for approximately one week to "take down the Garda armored car" that Nelson was driving. On May 29, the three men waited in a park for the Garda United Armored Services armored car to travel its cash delivery route. Nelson was text messaging Allen updating him on her upcoming delivery stops and telling him how many guards were in the truck with her.

At approximately 11 a.m. the armored car stopped at the TCF Bank in Robbinsdale, and the three men decided that this would be the location to hold up the vehicle. Eiden told police that

they intended to throw smoke bombs into the armored car, knock out the guard by hitting him in the head with a CO2 canister and shooting him with a paint ball gun. Then they were going to take the guard's weapon and tie him up.

The affidavit also states that the men would "rough up" Nelson a little to make it look like she wasn't involved.

During an executed search warrant of Singleton's vehicle on May 29, police recovered two paint ball rifles, a mask, a bag of paint balls, a CO2 cannister, a list of Garda armored car employees and their pictures, rope and smoke devices.

According to the affidavit, Nelson told police that she was being investigated for an earlier theft of \$34,000 from Garda, and said that if more money went missing she feared the company would fire her so they would make it look like a robbery. Garda reported the theft from one of its armored cars in May 2007. The report was filed by an unnamed employee and Nelson, who both stated that they did not know what happened to the money.

Nelson said that she had taken the \$34,000, and she and Allen used the money to buy a car, pay for hotels and for other expenses. Singleton and Eiden were each given some of the cash.

This case was the result of an investigation by the FBI, the Robbinsdale Police Department and the St. Paul Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann M. Anaya.